



Newry/Portadown Canal Towpath

# CODE OF CONDUCT

SHARE A GREAT SPACE

[armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](http://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)



Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon  
Borough Council



## **This code applies to the Newry Portadown Canal Towpath within the Borough and to the Bann Boulevard from Point of Whitecoat to Shillington's Quay, Portadown.**

The Newry Portadown Canal Towpath is for everyone to enjoy – walkers, cyclists, runners and users with disabilities. **This relies on everyone:**

- Being **considerate** towards each other.
  - Taking **responsibility** for their own actions.
- Caring** for the environment.

### **All users**

When joining the towpath give way to users already on it.

Mobiles and headphones can distract you - stay alert for other users of the path.

### **Share the space, drop your pace**

Considerate cyclists are welcome on the towpath. However, the towpath is not suitable for cycling fast. Fast cyclists often scare people, problems with dogs are more likely and blind corners are also hazards. If speed matters to you, you should use other routes.



PHOTO BY ANDY POTTS



## Angling

- Discarded hooks and lines, bottles and tins can kill or injure wildlife. Gather them up and take away with you.
- Make sure the towpath is passable for other users.
- Don't fish within 30m of overhead power lines, near to moored boats, locks or bridges.

## Cycling

### When approaching other users:

- Please give pedestrians priority.
- **Ting-ting.** Slow down and make yourself heard with a bell ring or a friendly voice to warn of your approach.
- Be aware that not all users will be able to hear a bell or a call.

- Pass at a slow speed giving plenty of space to the other user.
- Be polite and say "thank you".

### On approach to blind corners, such as under bridges:

- Slow down and make yourself heard in a friendly voice or bell ring to warn of your approach.
- Be prepared to stop.
- Dismount where the towpath is uneven or very narrow.

**Be aware that other users, particularly dogs and children, may move unpredictably. Always cycle slowly enough that you can stop if necessary.**

## Dog Walking

- Ensure your dog is under close control - walking to heel and responding to all commands - or on a short lead.
- Clean up after your dog. Dog fouling is illegal, very unpleasant and is a health hazard. **Bag it and bin it.**

## Litter

- Take away all your litter.
- Take particular care not to drop things like bottles, cans or plastic bags which can harm wild animals.

## Walking or Jogging

- Stay alert for passing cyclists
- On hearing a bicycle bell or cautionary voice:
  - Move to the side of the towpath
  - Allow cyclists to pass
- When joining the towpath give way to users already on it.
- Big groups and those pushing buggies should make way for other towpath users to pass by.





## Be safe - stay away from the edge

- Never dive or swim in the canal. Obstacles can lurk just below the surface and even experienced swimmers can easily get into difficulties.
- If the water appears frozen, **never** trust the ice to take your weight.
- Always keep young children under supervision
- Watch out for uneven surfaces

## General Rights & Responsibilities

Unauthorised vehicles, motorcycles, quad bikes, scramblers etc. are strictly prohibited. Electric bicycles are permitted provided they comply with all statutory requirements.

All non-motorised users, including walkers, joggers, cyclists and mobility scooters, can use and enjoy the canal towpath provided they act responsibly.



## Road Crossings

There are a number of road intersections along the route. Please exercise due care and attention on meeting and crossing main roads.

## Canal Bank Road, Poyntzpass

Please note that Canal Bank Road from its junction with Railway Street, Poyntzpass to Gambles Bridge Road, is a public road.

## Contact Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

☎ 0300 0300 900

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